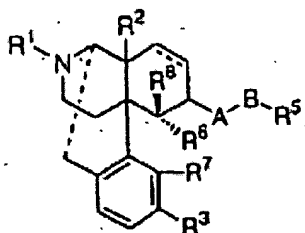


### In the Claims

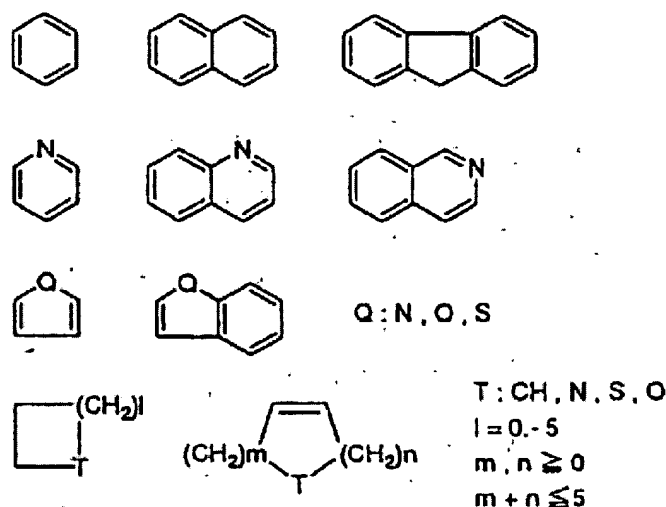
1. (Currently Amended) A ~~therapeutic agent~~ method of treating neuropathic pain comprising, as an active ingredient, administering to a mammal a therapeutically effective amount of a composition comprising a compound represented by general formula (I) or a pharmacologically acceptable acid addition salt thereof:



(I)

wherein  $\cdots$  represents a double bond or a single bond; R<sup>1</sup> represents an alkyl group having 1 to 5 carbon atoms, a cycloalkylalkyl group having 4 to 7 carbon atoms, a cycloalkenylalkyl group having 5 to 7 carbon atoms, an aryl group having 6 to 12 carbon atoms, an aralkyl group having 7 to 13 carbon atoms, an alkenyl group having 4 to 7 carbon atoms, an allyl group, a furan-2-yl-alkyl group having 1 to 5 carbon atoms, or a thiophene-2-yl-alkyl group having 1 to 5 carbon atoms; R<sup>2</sup> represents hydrogen, a hydroxyl group, a nitro group, an alkanoyloxy group having 1 to 5 carbon atoms, an alkoxy group having 1 to 5 carbon atoms, an alkyl group having 1 to 5 carbon atoms, or -NR<sup>9</sup>R<sup>10</sup>; R<sup>9</sup> represents hydrogen or an alkyl group having 1 to 5 carbon atoms; R<sup>10</sup> represents hydrogen, an alkyl group having 1 to 5 carbon atoms, or -C(=O)R<sup>11</sup>; R<sup>11</sup> represents hydrogen, a phenyl group, or an alkyl group having 1 to 5 carbon atoms; R<sup>3</sup> represents hydrogen, a hydroxyl group, an alkanoyloxy group having 1 to 5 carbon atoms, or an alkoxy group having 1 to 5 carbon atoms; A represents -XC(+Y)-, -XC(+Y)Z-, -X-, or -XSO<sub>2</sub>- (where each of X, Y, and Z independently represents NR<sup>4</sup>, S, or O; R<sup>4</sup> represents hydrogen, a straight or branched alkyl group having 1 to 5 carbon atoms, or an aryl group having 6 to 12 carbon atoms;

and each R<sup>4</sup> may be identical or different); B represents a valence bond, a straight or branched alkylene group having 1 to 14 carbon atoms (which may have at least one substituent selected from the group consisting of an alkoxy group having 1 to 5 carbon atoms, an alkanoyloxy group having 1 to 5 carbon atoms, a hydroxyl group, fluoro, chloro, bromo, iodo, an amino group, a nitro group, a cyano group, a trifluoromethyl group, and a phenoxy group, where one to three methylene groups may be replaced with carbonyl groups), a straight or branched acyclic unsaturated hydrocarbon containing one to three double bonds and/or triple bonds and having 2 to 14 carbon atoms (which may have at least one substituent selected from the group consisting of an alkoxy group having 1 to 5 carbon atoms, an alkanoyloxy group having 1 to 5 carbon atoms, a hydroxyl group, fluoro, chloro, bromo, iodo, an amino group, a nitro group, a cyano group, a trifluoromethyl group, and a phenoxy group, where one to three methylene groups may be replaced with carbonyl groups), or a straight or branched saturated or unsaturated hydrocarbon containing one to five thioether bonds, ether bonds, and/or amino bonds and having 1 to 14 carbon atoms (where any hetero atom is not directly bonded to A, and one to three methylene groups may be replaced with carbonyl groups); R<sup>5</sup> represents hydrogen or an organic group having a basis skeleton selected from the group consisting of the following formulae:

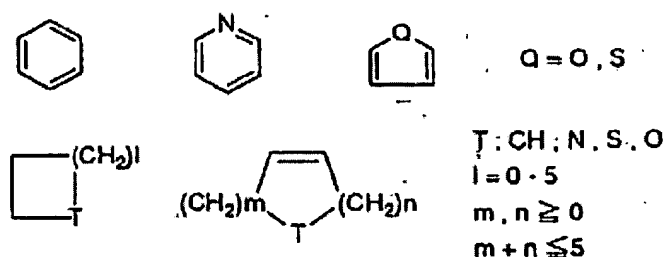


#### ORGANIC GROUPS REPRESENTED BY R<sup>5</sup>

(where the organic group may have at least one substituent selected from the group consisting of an alkyl group having 1 to 5 carbon atoms, an alkoxy group having 1 to 5 carbon atoms, an alkanoyloxy group having 1 to 5 carbon atoms, a hydroxyl group, fluoro, chloro, bromo, iodo, an amino group, a nitro group, a cyano group, an isothiocyanate group, a trifluoromethyl group, a trifluoromethoxy group, and a methylenedioxy group); R<sup>6</sup> represents hydrogen; R<sup>7</sup> represents hydrogen, a hydroxyl group, an alkoxy group having 1 to 5 carbon atoms, or an alkanoyloxy group having 1 to 5 carbon atoms, or R<sup>6</sup> and R<sup>7</sup> together forming -O-, -CH<sub>2</sub>-, or -S-; and R<sup>8</sup> is hydrogen, an alkyl group having 1 to 5 carbon atoms, or an alkanoyl group having 1 to 5 carbon atoms.

2. (Currently Amended) ~~A therapeutic agent for neuropathic pain~~The method according to Claim 1, wherein, in general formula (I), R<sup>1</sup> is an alkyl group having 1 to 5 carbon atoms, a cycloalkylmethyl group having 4 to 7 carbon atoms, a cycloalkenylmethyl group having 5 to 7 carbon atoms, a phenylalkyl group having 7 to 13 carbon atoms, an alkenyl group having 4 to 7 carbon atoms, an allyl group, a furan-2-yl-alkyl group having 1 to 5 carbon atoms, or a thiophene-2-yl-alkyl group having 1 to 5 carbon atoms; R<sup>2</sup> is hydrogen, a hydroxyl group, an

alkanoyloxy group having 1 to 5 carbon atoms, or an alkoxy group having 1 to 5 carbon atoms;  $R^3$  has the same definition as Claim 1; A is  $-XC(=Y)-$  (where X represents  $NR^4$ , S, or O; Y represents O; and  $R^4$  represents hydrogen or an alkyl group having 1 to 5 carbon atoms),  $-XC(=Y)Z-$ ,  $-X-$ , or  $-XSO_2-$  (where X represents  $NR^4$ ; Y represents O or S; Z represents  $NR^4$  or O; and  $R^4$  represents hydrogen or an alkyl group having 1 to 5 carbon atoms); B is  $-(CH_2)_n-$  ( $n = 0$  to 10),  $-(CH_2)_n-C(=O)-$  ( $n = 1$  to 4),  $-CH=CH-(CH_2)_n-$  ( $n = 0$  to 4),  $-C\equiv C-(CH_2)_n-$  ( $n = 0$  to 4),  $-CH_2-O-$ ,  $-CH_2-S-$ ,  $-(CH_2)_2-O-CH_2-$ , or  $-CH=CH-CH=CH-(CH_2)_n-$  ( $n = 0$  to 4);  $R^5$  is hydrogen or an organic group having a basic skeleton selected from the group consisting of the following formulae:



#### ORGANIC GROUPS REPRESENTED BY $R^5$

(where the organic group may have at least one substituent selected from the group consisting of an alkyl group having 1 to 5 carbon atoms, an alkoxy group having 1 to 5 carbon atoms, an alkanoyloxy group having 1 to 5 carbon atoms, a hydroxyl group, fluoro, chloro, bromo, iodo, an amino group, a nitro group, a cyano group, an isothiocyanate group, a trifluoromethyl group, a trifluoromethoxy group, and a methylenedioxy group);  $R^6$  and  $R^7$  together form  $-O-$ ; and  $R^8$  is hydrogen.

3. (Currently Amended) ~~A therapeutic agent for neuropathic pain~~The method according to Claim 1, wherein, in general formula (I),  $R^1$  is a methyl, ethyl, propyl, butyl, isobutyl, cyclopropylmethyl, allyl, benzyl, phenethyl, furan-2-yl-methyl, or thiophene-2-yl-

methyl group;  $R^2$  is hydrogen, a hydroxy group, or an acetoxy group;  $R^3$  is a hydroxyl, acetoxy, or methoxy group; A is  $-XC(=Y)-$  or  $-XC(=Y)Z-$  (where X represents  $NR^4$ ; Y represents O; Z represents  $NR^4$  or O, and  $R^4$  represents an alkyl group having 1 to 5 carbon atoms); B is  $-(CH_2)_n-$  ( $n = 1$  to  $3$ ),  $-CH=CH-(CH_2)_n-$  ( $n = 0$  to  $4$ ),  $-C\equiv C-(CH_2)_n-$  ( $n = 0$  to  $4$ ),  $-CH_2-O-$ , or  $-CH_2-S-$ ;  $R^5$  is hydrogen or an organic group having a basic skeleton selected from the group consisting of the following formulae:



ORGANIC GROUPS REPRESENTED BY  $R^5$

(where the organic group may have at least one substituent selected from the group consisting of an alkyl group having 1 to 5 carbon atoms, an alkoxy group having 1 to 5 carbon atoms, an alkanoyloxy group having 1 to 5 carbon atoms, a hydroxyl group, fluoro, chloro, bromo, iodo, an amino group, a nitro group, a cyano group, an isothiocyanate group, a trifluoromethyl group, a trifluoromethoxy group, and a methylenedioxy group);  $R^6$  and  $R^7$  together form  $-O-$ ; and  $R^8$  is hydrogen.

4. (Currently Amended) ~~A therapeutic agent for neuropathic pain~~The method according to Claim 1, wherein said neuropathic pain is pain associated with herpes zoster.

Claims 5 – 7 Cancelled

8. (Currently Amended) ~~A therapeutic agent for neuropathic pain~~The method according to Claim 2, wherein said neuropathic pain is pain associated with herpes zoster.

9. (Currently Amended) ~~A therapeutic agent for neuropathic pain~~The method according to Claim 3, wherein said neuropathic pain is pain associated with herpes zoster.